
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, AND EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING TO
COLLABORATE AND EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE
EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM TO INCLUDE A BROADER RANGE OF
INCOMES.

1 WHEREAS, Early Head Start is a federal program that
2 provides family-centered services that facilitate child
3 development, support parental roles, and promote self-
4 sufficiency; and

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6 WHEREAS, the overall goal of Early Head Start programs is
7 to increase the social competence of young children in low-
8 income families through family and child development; and

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10 WHEREAS, children who have been given early learning
11 opportunities are more likely to grow into healthy, capable, and
12 contributing adults; and

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14 WHEREAS, Early Head Start programs serve infants, toddlers,
15 and pregnant women and their families who have incomes below the
16 federal poverty level; and

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18 WHEREAS, Early Head Start services are provided at no cost
19 to families that qualify; and

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21 WHEREAS, regardless of income, Early Head Start services
22 are available for pregnant women, children in foster care,
23 homeless children, children from families receiving public
24 assistance, and children with a disability certified through the
25 Department of Education; and

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27 WHEREAS, all other families must qualify based on the
28 federal poverty guidelines, which in Hawaii require that a



1 family's household income be under \$18,090 for a household of
2 two and \$27,430 for a household of four; and
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4 WHEREAS, the income eligibility requirement excludes some
5 families that cannot afford to pay for early learning programs
6 from receiving the services provided by Early Head Start; now,
7 therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
12 Human Services, Department of Education, and Executive Office on
13 Early Learning are requested to collaborate and explore the
14 feasibility of expanding the Early Head Start program to include
15 a broader range of incomes; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
18 Services, Department of Education, and Executive Office on Early
19 Learning are requested to determine whether expanding income
20 eligibility would allow children not currently receiving
21 services to enroll in Early Head Start programs; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
24 Services, Department of Education, and Executive Office on Early
25 Learning are requested to submit findings and recommendations,
26 including a determination of whether broadening the income
27 eligibility would address the gap of children not currently
28 receiving services, to the Legislature no later than twenty days
29 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
33 Services, Director of Health, Chairperson of the Board of
34 Education, and Director of the Executive Office on Early
35 Learning.
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